

Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
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NASA's Ikhana UAV Conducts Wildfire Imaging Flights

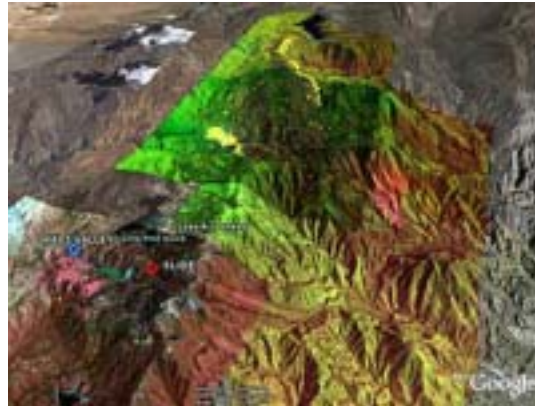
NASA's Ikhana unmanned aircraft system flew over several of the major Southern California wildfires again on Friday, October 26, capturing thermal-infrared imagery (right) to aid firefighters battling those blazes. Extensive cloud cover, which interferes with the infrared sensor's imaging capability, forced Saturday's flight to be scrubbed.

Ikhana, a General Atomics' Predator B adapted for civil science and technology research missions, was aloft for nine hours Friday before returning to its base at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center.

This flight took Ikhana over the major blazes in the in the San Bernardino National Forest – the Slide and Grass Valley fires near Lake Arrowhead and Running Springs; the Ammo fire on Camp Pendleton Marine Base along the coast; and the Witch, Poomacha, McCoy and Harris fires in San Diego County.

Ikhana also imaged the Santiago Fire in the Cleveland National Forest in Orange County for the first time.

Ikhana carries the Autonomous Modular Scanner payload developed by NASA's Ames Research Center.



The equipment incorporates a sophisticated imaging sensor and real-time data communications equipment. The sensor is capable of peering through thick smoke and haze to record hot spots and the progression of wildfires over a lengthy period.

The data is downlinked to NASA Ames where it is overlaid on Google Earth maps, then transmitted in near-real time to the Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, and made available to fire incident commanders to assist them in allocating their fire-fighting resources.

The flights are in response to a request for assistance from the California Office

of Emergency Services and the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), and are coordinated with the FAA to avoid conflict with other aircraft flying in the same areas.

The Ikhana flights during the daytime are complemented by nighttime imaging flights being flown by the NIFC's Cessna Citation and an Air Force Global Hawk that are equipped with earlier-generation infrared cameras.

Pilots in a ground control station at NASA Dryden control the flights via satellite communications links.

The missions are being flown at altitudes of about 22,000 to 23,000 feet, as authorized by the FAA.

The current flights are a real-world wrap-up of the Western States Fire Mission, in which a series of four long-endurance demonstration flights of the imaging technology aboard Ikhana were flown by NASA in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service in August and September.

Those flights, some as long as 20 hours, were funded by NASA's Science Mission Directorate.

Celebrate Wallops Day

Have you ever wanted to wander into a building on the Facility to find out what's going on? You'll have the chance on November 6. Several buildings on the Main Base will be open for employees to check out the operations. Dr. Ed Weiler also will join us to talk about the future of the Center. Employees are invited to attend any or all of the events scheduled throughout the day.

8:15 - 9:45 a.m. – Building E-109

Open house at the new Engineering Building (E-109)

8 to 10 a.m. – Building N-159 Hangar

Wallops Fire Department new equipment will be on display outside Building N-159

Hydrospheric and Biospheric Sciences Laboratories will be open and the OASIS will be on display

10 to 11:30 a.m. – Building E-100 Auditorium

All Hand's with Dr. Ed Weiler, Director of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center



11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Pavilion

CFC picnic and Chili Cook-off
Fun Run/Walk

1 to 2:30 p.m. – Building F-7

Balloon Program Facility

1 to 2:30 p.m. – Building F-10

Sounding Rocket Program/NSROC Facility

1 to 2:30 pm. – Building H-100

Payload Processing Facility

Debedeavon Toastmasters Halloween Open House

Wednesday, October 31
11 a.m.—1 p.m.
Building E-2 Classroom



11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Membership Table – membership information, Toastmaster information and wonderful conversation for anyone interested in learning more about the local Toastmaster Club.

11:30 a.m. – Noon

Interpretive Reading and/or Storytelling Speeches – speech projects from an Advanced Manual. Members who are working from an advanced manual have achieved Competent Communicator by completing a series of 10 speeches.

Noon – 12:30 p.m.

Halloween Table Topics – table topics are impromptu speeches ideally 1-2 minutes in length. The Ghoul Master will invite members and guests to speak on a Halloween topic. This is a fun way to learn more about Toastmasters.

12:30 – 1 p.m.

Refreshments – cake, punch and other Halloween treats for those who dare find out more about Toastmasters.

The next regular meeting of the Debedeavon Toastmasters Club will be November 7, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Cropper Center. Toastmasters meet the first and third Wednesday of each month.

For more information contact Brenda Mulac at x2454 or email: Brenda.L.Mulac@nasa.gov

Daylight Saving Time



Ends at 2 a.m. on
November 4
Set clocks back 1
hour

Wallops Shorts.....

In the News

SpaceRef.com, "Jumbo Balloon Lofts Solar Telescope to 120,000 feet

In the Field

A NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract (NSROC) team is at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., preparing for the launch of a Terrier-Black Brant sounding rocket.

On the Range

The count is underway for a Terrier-Black Brant sounding rocket to be launched from Wallops Island. The window is from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. to November 5.

Tracking support is being provided for space shuttle Discovery, STS-120, currently scheduled to return to NASA's Kennedy Space Center on November 6.

Chili Cook-Off

At the Pavilion
November 6
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Join your colleagues for the WFF Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) chili cook-off. Cook solo or form a team.

There will be two prize categories: "Judges' Choice" and "Peoples' Choice".

Voting for Peoples' Choice will be a quarter per vote.

The Wallops Exchange and Morale Association will sponsor lunch. Burgers or hot dog, chips and soda for \$3.

Proceeds from the chili cook-off will be contributed to the CFC. Call Lisa Goga at x1245 to register your chili entry.

For Sale

1998 Mercury Marquis 84,000 miles, must sell \$4,800 OBO. Call Teena at 336-2477 or Carla at 442-3485 after 5 p.m.

Combined Federal Campaign "Help Our World Forward"

Last year, thanks to the generosity of Federal employees on the Eastern Shore, our local Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) raised \$47,218.14 for many different agencies. Wallops employees contributed \$29,359.14.

Federal employees have the right to contribute or elect not to contribute. Any contribution should be freely given. The CFC booklet has numerous charity organizations listed that have either helped you, your family or someone you know. So much can be accomplished with even \$1 per week when combined with contributions from others.

Payroll deduction makes it convenient to give by spreading contributions across the entire year. Payments on payroll deduction pledges begin on the first pay period in January.

The list of local organizations begins on page 18 of the CFC brochure. All charities have been assigned a new 5-digit CFC code, so the number used last year will not be the same for an organization this year.

The 2007 Combined Federal Campaign runs through the end of October.

For further information contact Joe Mitchell at x1127.

Diversity Council Words to Live By

"Leadership cannot really be taught. It can only be learned"..... Harold Geneen

Asbestos Awareness Training

November 20
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Building F-6 Room 213

This training is offered at no cost to NASA and contractor employees. For further information contact Olive Finney at x2463 or by email: olive.v.finney@nasa.gov

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found at: <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/news/newsletters.html>

Editor

Betty Flowers